

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-13, 16-25, 29-37, and 40-48 are pending in the present application after this amendment cancels claims 3, 15, 28, and 39. Claims 1, 13, 25, and 37 have been amended to include the features of dependent claims only. The amendments do not add new matter and find support throughout the specification, figures, and claims. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered since they do not raise new issues and/or place the claims in condition for allowance. In view of the amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-13, 16-25, 29-37, and 40-48 (with the cancellation of claims 3, 15, 28, and 39) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,956,021 to Kubota et al. (hereinafter Kubota), in view of United States Patent No. 5,543,818 to Scott (hereinafter Scott). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 relates to an information entry method that is computer-executable. The method of amended claim 1 includes, among other things, displaying each of a plurality of groups, which respectively contains a plurality of information grouped according to a predetermined rule, so that each information contained in each group is displayed. In the method of claim 1, each group is displayed so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information in the group selection mode, and the predetermined information is defined beforehand. In the method of amended claim 1, *a group selected in the group selection mode is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other groups.*

The Examiner maintains that the motivation to combine the references is provided by both references being directed to text input and/or information entry (Office Action; page 12,

line 19, to page 13, line 7). However, Scott is directed at entering text using a small number of keys (Scott; Abstract), and Kubota is directed to touchscreen input which displays representative keys which change during use (Kubota; Abstract). The device of Scott is premised on a predetermined and unchanging key set, while the device in Kubota relates to a dynamic collection of images representing keys. The systems of Scott and Kubota are incompatible and therefore each reference effectively *teaches away* from the combination. One skilled in the art and aware of Scott's *predetermined small keyset* would not look for guidance for modification to the *dynamic touchscreen system* apparently disclosed in Kubota. Likewise, a practitioner aware of the touchscreen of Kubota would not be motivated to promote a combination with the small, predetermined keyset apparently disclosed in Scott. Since each reference teaches away from a combination with the other reference by teaching a distinct and *incompatible data entry method*, the rejection is the result of improper hindsight reasoning and should consequently be withdrawn.

Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of claim 3 or a comparable feature, namely that *a group selected in the group selection mode is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other groups*. The Examiner continues to reject claim 3 asserting that Kubota discloses the feature of "each group is displayed so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information in the group selection mode; and wherein the predetermined information is defined beforehand" (Office Action; page 12, lines 1-10; citing col. 3, lines 13-18; col. 17, lines 26-37; and figure 19). However, the cited section of Kubota does not disclose or suggest *enlarging* a selected group as compared with other groups, but rather appears to suggest displaying the constituents of a group

when selecting a representative of a group, and displaying in a shaded manner the selected member of the group. For instance, Kubota states:

The initial display device may display predetermined *keys* larger than other keys, and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key. The operator can confirm the expanded key before determining the key input. Therefore, it is possible to avoid wrong key input.

(Kubota; col. 3, lines 13-18; emphasis added). However, this disclosure does not disclose or suggest a *group* being displayed in an *enlarged* manner as compared with the other groups. Kubota apparently discusses a key being larger, but this does not disclose or suggest *enlarging a group*, as recited in amended claim 1. Similarly, figure 19 and the accompanying text in the specification of Kubota do not disclose or suggest the feature of a group selected in the group selection mode being displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other groups. Figure 19 does not show any members of any group *enlarged* with respect to any other group, but rather apparently discloses showing the members of a group in a vertical column when a representative of the group is selected. In Kubota figure 19, the selected member of the group apparently appears shaded with respect to the other members of the group and other representative characters, however none of the members of the group appear to be enlarged. Since neither Kubota nor Scott discloses nor suggests a group selected in the group selection mode being displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other groups, therefore the combination of the references does not render claim 1 unpatentable.

Claims 4-12 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

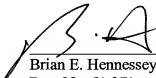
Independent claims 13, 25, and 37 have been amended in the same manner as claim 1 and include similar features. Therefore, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 16-24 depend from claim 13; claims 29-36 depend from claim 25; and claims 40-48 depend from claim 37. Therefore these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims are allowable.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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